

# THE Asylum

VOL. 39 NO. 1



SPRING 2021

Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society • COINBOOKS.ORG



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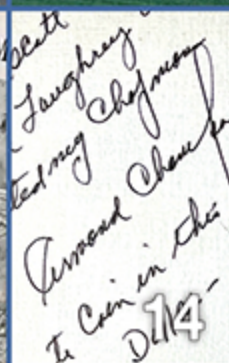
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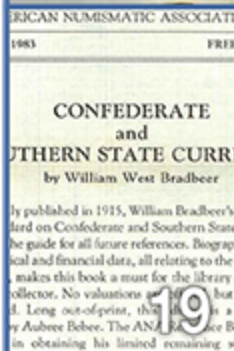
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By Jack Howes, James Rosen,  
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Richard Margolis



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**Submissions:** *The Asylum* (ISSN 1552-1931) is published in four issues per year. Submissions should be sent to the editor at nbsasylum@gmail.com. Authors, please put your name(s) and contact information on all submitted material. All accepted manuscripts become the property of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. For more information, please contact the editor.

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## **Deadlines for Submissions and Advertising:**

Spring Issue (No. 1) February 1  
Summer Issue (No. 2) May 1

Autumn Issue (No. 3) August 23 (After ANA)  
Winter Issue (No. 4) November 1

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Tom Harrison  
NBS President

## Message from the President

Welcome to the spring 2021 issue of *The Asylum*. I was saddened to hear of the passing of our friend Syd Martin who served on the NBS Board since 2009. Syd was a staunch supporter of the NBS and will be missed by the many people he touched throughout the numismatic community.

The NBS Constitution requires a call for nominations for officers and board members during the first quarter of odd numbered years. If you have a desire to serve, please send a brief bio and portrait photo via email to Maria Fanning at [nbsasylum@gmail.com](mailto:nbsasylum@gmail.com) by May 1st so you can be placed on the ballot to be mailed with the summer issue of *The Asylum*. You may contact me at [president@coinbooks.org](mailto:president@coinbooks.org) with any questions about serving on the board.

The most recent NBS Bibliotalk, "Special Collections and Art Books," features Cassie Brand, Curator of Rare Books at Olin Library, Washington University in St. Louis. This is another entertaining and informative discussion reflecting the passion of a true book enthusiast. It and all of the previous podcasts can be accessed at the NBS website at [coinbooks.org](http://coinbooks.org). Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of Bibliotalk!

May your numismatic library provide investigation, discovery and, most of all, enjoyment.



## Join the NBS Board

***Help the Numismatic Bibliomania Society  
spread the word about numismatic literature!***

The NBS are accepting nominations to join the board of trustees for the 2022–2024 term. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact NBS President Tom Harrison at [president@coinbooks.org](mailto:president@coinbooks.org) by May 1, 2021 and provide a short bio and portrait photo to Maria Fanning at [asylum@coinbooks.org](mailto:asylum@coinbooks.org) for inclusion on the ballot.

# Syd Martin: A Few Notes and Memories

by David F. Fanning

I'm not sure when I first became acquainted with Syd Martin, but we started to get to know each other somewhere around 2005 or 2006. A shared interest in colonial coins and the literature concerning them ensured that we had plenty to talk about. As my activity as a numismatic bookseller became more serious, Syd became one of my most valued customers and we began to speak regularly on the phone. During my solo years, before George Kolbe and I combined our efforts, Syd was someone who did much to keep my business afloat.

Syd was heavily involved in the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4), which I had joined shortly after I returned to the hobby in 1999 after being gone for a decade or so. For years, Syd served as the editor of the *C4 Newsletter* while working on his various book projects, all while running a large and successful business operation, being involved with his family, and having other obligations outside of numismatics. Syd and I would get to talk in person at C4's annual convention and at the ANA show, and especially at Roger Siboni's annual barbeque. I wasn't able to attend Roger's get-together every year, but always enjoyed this unparalleled opportunity to spend time with the top numismatists in this field.

I remember one year, Syd and I were sitting in adjacent chairs in Roger's living room while Syd was looking through my collection of Connecticut coppers. For those who are unfamiliar with this arcane little segment of the hobby, Syd was pretty much the king of this area, being one of only a handful of collectors who had collected 300 or more die varieties, and owning what was certainly the best collection of these pieces assembled in modern times. Having Syd look through my meagre collection seemed like inviting Giorgio Armani to admire my wardrobe. But Syd was never in any way boastful about his accomplishments in collecting, nor was he ever disdainful of other people's collections. Indeed, I remember him sitting next to me while looking at a particular coin, and him saying something offhand about how he thought that it was a nicer example of the variety than his. Beyond being amazed that I might actually own a coin that was nicer than his, I was struck by the modesty inherent in his statement and the spirit of camaraderie within it.

That's who Syd was. He was the President of American Numismatic Society, the author of four published books that will remain the standard works on their subjects for generations, a highly skilled and successful businessman, an accomplished collector, and much else. But you might never know it because he seemed most in his element as just another collector—someone who thought coins were intriguing pieces of history and that collecting them was fun. Even after his financial success allowed him to purchase very expensive coins, he continued to take considerable pleasure in buying \$100 and \$200 coins and studying them carefully for what they might have to



say. And he wanted to hear what you had to say about those coins, too.

I'm going to miss Syd. Yes, he was a good customer of mine, but that isn't why I'll miss him. I'll miss him because he never lost his enthusiasm. Because he sought out kindred spirits and listened to them. And because he never forgot that coin collecting is supposed to be fun.



Read more tributes to Syd Martin in the *E-Sylum*, the NBS's weekly electronic newsletter, at [e-sylum.org](http://e-sylum.org).

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# The Clain-Stefanelli *Festschrift*: A Case Study in Biblio-Gestation

By Leonard Augsburger

In 1986, newly appointed National Numismatic Collection (NNC) curator Richard G. Doty and his wife Margaret D'Ambrosio conceived the idea of a *festschrift* honoring the longtime NNC curators Vladimir (1914–1982) and Elvira Eliza (1914–2001) Clain-Stefanelli. Thirty-nine authors stepped forward to participate, a broad and diverse tribute to the Clain-Stefanellis.

A decade later, *Coin World* reported on November 11, 1996, “After more than 10 years in the making, a book containing thirty-nine numismatic papers ranging from U.S. to ancient coins and dedicated to Vladimir and Elvira Clain-Stefanelli was recently published in Belgium.” The work was an international undertaking, published in English, German, French, and Italian. Despite impressive scholarly contributions and capable technical production, the work failed to reach a wide audience, as we shall see.

The book begins with useful introductory material: résumés of the Clain-Stefanellis, bibliographies, and a six-page autobiography contributed by Elvira Clain-Stefanelli. From there follows a series of thirty-nine academic papers on varied subjects. American numismatics is well treated, with a number of papers:

**Walter Breen**, “Early American Tokens from Birmingham: Who, Where, Why?” Breen’s article follows up on Eric P. Newman’s “American Circulation of English and Birmingham Halfpence” (1976), adding data on specific emissions and coiners, including Wyon, Boulton, Westwood, Lutwyche, and others.

**Werner Giesebrecht**, “Frederick the Great and the United States of America.” Giesebrecht explores diplomatic relations between America and Prussia during the revolutionary period. Although illustrated by several contemporary medals, the article is largely historic in nature.

**Cory Gilliland**, “A Mint Director’s Full Agenda.” This article studies the Robert M. Patterson correspondence for 1838, covering the Smithson behest (104,960 gold sovereigns) and its role in founding the Smithsonian. Gilliland further discusses an interchange between Patterson and William G. Stearns, related to the formation of the Mint Cabinet.

**Raymond J. Hébert**, “The July 2, 1780, Emission of Rhode Island Bills of Credit.” Hébert considers the production, numbering, and signing of this issue of colonial paper money, and relates that Vladimir Clain-Stefanelli had intended to write on this subject. Researching a pet topic of Clain-Stefanelli, this article is perhaps in the best spirit of a *festschrift*.

**Eric P. Newman**, “The Promotion and Suppression of Hard Times Tokens.” Newman’s article discusses anti-slavery tokens issued in the late 1830s, and in particular the AM I NOT A MAN AND BROTHER variant (Low-54a). Searching multiple



newspapers prior to digitization, Newman locates a contemporary newspaper reference to this ultra-rare issue.

**Q. David Bowers**, “Coin Collecting: Maximizing the Rewards.” Bowers, in his usual accessible style, explore aspects of numismatics and their appeal to a general audience. History, art, romance, and financial opportunities are multiple aspects of this compelling pursuit.

**Alan Stahl**, “Victor D. Brenner and the American Numismatic Society.” Stahl covers the relationship between Brenner and the ANS, including medals and plaquettes engraved by Brenner on behalf of the Society.

In addition, NNC curator Richard Doty contributed a paper on Parys Mine (UK) tokens, and other American numismatists participated, including Alan Stahl, Michael Bates, Randolph Zander, and Cornelius Vermeule. This all-star lineup is perhaps the best indication of the high regard for the Clain-Stefanellis in the numismatic community.

The work was published in 1996 under the title *Italiam Fato Profvgi / Hesperinae venerunt litora / Numismatic Studies Dedicated to Vladimir and Elvira Eliza Clain-Stefanelli*. The volume was edited by Tony Hackens and Ghislaine Moucharte, both of the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, and published as part of the series *Numismatica Lovaniensia*, no. 12. This was dually part of the series *Publications d'Histoire de l'Art et d'Archéologie de l'Université Catholique de Louvain*, no 70. The technical production is sound—green cloth binding, case bound with semi-gloss paper and rounded spine. The ample illustrations are high-resolution halftones. The first signature in the text block is somewhat loose in the author's copy, whether this is due to mishandling or poor production is unclear.

So, with all the firepower behind the content, what happened? This book is little known today, and difficult to find on the secondary market. The purchase price seems to be the first issue, set at 4,900 Belgian francs for subscribers and 6,500 francs at the time of publication. The equivalent of \$202 USD at the time, the application of a consumer price index-based multiplier since 1996 results in a present day equivalent of \$337. Clearly few purchased the book, with many copies likely going to institutions. Contributors did not receive free copies, further restricting the reach of the compiled work.

The Eric P. Newman papers provide additional detail on the long path from conception to publication, and these are excerpted chronologically.

**August 11, 1986:** Doty wrote to Newman on the Smithsonian letterhead, soliciting a contribution to the Clain-Stefanelli festschrift, with publication intended for the end of 1988. Newman responded on September 25, 1986, indicating his intention to contribute.

**March 4, 1987:** Newman offered his paper on Hard Times tokens to the 1987 American Numismatic Society Coinage of the Americas Conference, *The Medal in America*. Remarkably, Newman's paper was turned down due to an overly large number of applicants. Newman was gracious and wrote to Alan Stahl on April 22, 1987, “I was pleased to learn from you that the participation in the Symposium on Medals was oversubscribed. That indicates the further success of the program. I am glad a new face will have an opportunity to present a paper because I have had the opportunity

previously.” At this point, Newman seems to have made the decision to contribute the work to the Clain-Stefanelli festschrift.

**February 18, 1988:** Newman wrote to Doty on February 18, 1988 enclosing his first draft of “Promotion and Suppression of Hard Times Tokens.” A revised copy was transmitted to Doty on June 15.

**August 11, 1989:** Eric presented his work Hard Times tokens at the 1989 Pittsburgh convention. This presentation is available on Newman Portal at <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/book/544892>. Newman asked that the presentation video not be released to ANA members, pending publication of the Clain-Stefanelli festschrift.

**November 26, 1990:** Newman wrote to Russ Rulau, “Due to the fact that Lisa Stefanelli does not seem to wish to retire there has been a delay in this publication.... The festschrift has been set in type in Europe and its financing is still a mystery to me although I told them that if the *ANA Anthology* comes out first their sales of the Stefanelli item will be prejudiced severely.”

**October 17, 1991:** Newman wrote to David Schenkman, “It was supposed to be given to Lisa Stefanelli on her retirement, but she has not retired. It was not published as planned and is supposed to be published late this year in Belgium at about \$100 per copy....When and if it ever is published is a guess, but at the price of the volume the article will not be read by many.”

**October 31, 1991:** Newman wrote to Richard Doty, “The last time we talked about the publication of the Festschrift you told me that [editor] Tony [Hackens] said it would be published by the end of this year. You also said that they had lost some plates for an article and that was delaying it.”

**March 25, 1992:** Doty sent a pointed fax, all in caps, to Tony Hackens: “Yesterday afternoon, I had a very long and heated meeting with Lucy Greene and Coralee Gililand concerning publication of the Clain-Stefanelli festschrift. They are extremely concerned with the long delay in its appearance, are telling me that it is all, somehow, my responsibility. They are threatening to take the project away from you and Rene De Meester, to give it to another publisher or simply abandon the project altogether. I defended you, and project’s being produced by ‘Cultura,’ to the utmost of my ability; after all we have done, it would be a tragedy to give this festschrift up. But I simply must have more input from you, and I must now have answers to the following questions....” Doty further reminds Hackens that the Smithsonian has already funded the project to the extent of \$14,858.

**March 31, 1992:** Hackens responded to Doty, indicating that there were no financial problems and asking for Doty’s OK to print in June. Hackens noted issues with illness, a fire at home, and the International Numismatic Congress held in Brussels in September 1991.

**June 11, 1992:** Newman wrote to Doty asking about the page proofs and editorializing, “I am naturally interested in knowing the next episode. This is like adopting the second article of the bill of rights almost 200 years later. Our stories may be out of date before they are published.”

**May 25, 1993:** Newman wrote to Doty, “I have received word that my article...is

published in Liège, Belgium as part of a tribute to the Stefanellis. Its pre-issue price is \$150 US, going up to \$190 after June 1, 1993. I have not yet seen it or received an off-print. It had a gestation period of over five years. I do not know who is going to buy it.”

**July 12, 1993:** Newman wrote to David Schenkman, “...I consider the publication in Belgium almost a non-publication because of a six year delay, no retirement event by Stefanelli, and no availability to the public. I don’t do all that research to have it kept a secret.”

**July 14, 1993:** Newman wrote to the printer Cultura in Belgium, “On 10 April 1993 I was mailed a notice stating the volume was 309 pages, 60 plates, cloth bound and was available. Because authors were not promised a full volume, I sent a remittance of \$150 US (4900 Belgium francs) in May 1993 ....It has been over 6 years since I wrote the article...What has happened? [The Cultura communication of April 10 is not in the Newman file. The final work as published was 366 pages.]

**August 18, 1993:** Cultura responded, noting they “are only printers” and directed Newman to editor Hackens.

**October 29, 1994:** At some point, Newman had waited long enough and decided to offer the paper (again) to the ANS. Newman spoke at the 1994 ANS Coinage of Americas Conference (COAC), with the proceedings published as *The Token: America’s Other Money*. Newman’s paper was included in the associated COAC volume. The ANS program was reprised by Newman and others at the 1995 Anaheim ANA, under the banner of “ANS Day at ANA.” Following the ANS COAC, Q. David Bowers contacted Newman offering an example of the rare Low-54a, one of three then known, which Newman eventually acquired. (This piece, earlier owned by Charles Richard, was eventually sold by Newman, via Heritage Auctions, at the June 2016 Long Beach Expo, lot 98196.)

**October 21, 1995:** Newman spoke to Les Elam at the ANS by telephone and recorded the following notes: “Leslie Elam told me today that due to pressure from Smithsonian Tony Hackens found the missing plates from the Festschrift publication in his house in a box and that they were now going to publish—adding two new articles and being financed by Smithsonian. I told him that since my Hard Times token article had already been published [in the COAC proceedings] it should be eliminated. I told him it was about 10 years since I submitted it to Doty.”

**November 11, 1996:** *Coin World* reports the publication of *Italiam Fato Profvgi*.

Despite publication delays, the editor and publisher achieved their most important objective, which was to produce a scholarly work during Elvira Clain-Stefanelli’s lifetime. Thirty-nine authors combined to produce a worthy tribute to these champions of the National Numismatic Collection. Although challenging to acquire, the treasures therein will reward the patient numismatic bibliophile.

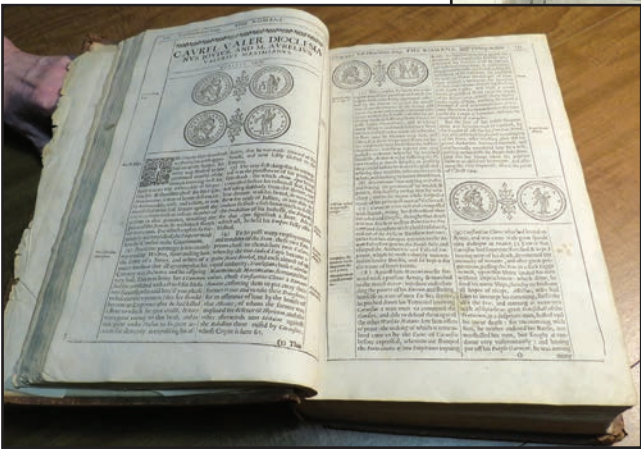
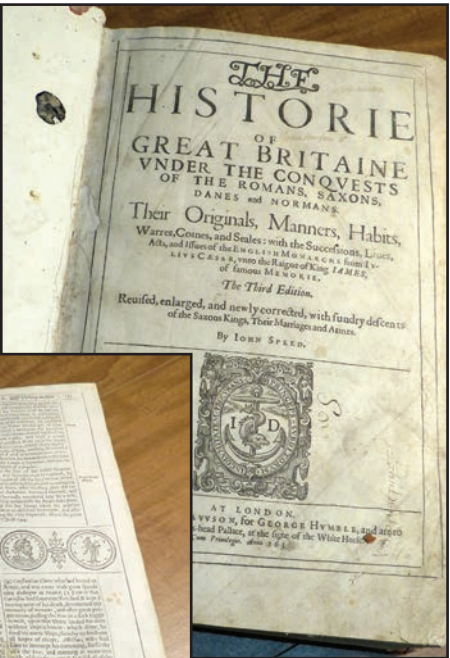
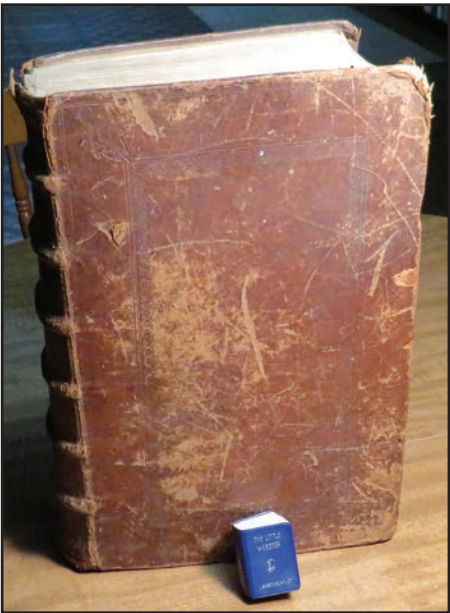


# The Largest and Smallest Books In My Library

By Ken Bressett

The oldest, and largest, numismatic book in my library is *The Historie of Great Britaine* by John Speed. Issued in 1632, it contains wood-cut illustrations of numerous coins, seals and medals, and colorful information about the people and events of the time. It stands 13 ¾" tall and 9 ½" wide.

My smallest book is an actual detailed dictionary that is only 1 ½" wide, 2" tall, and ¾" thick. It was published by Barnes & Noble in 1957.



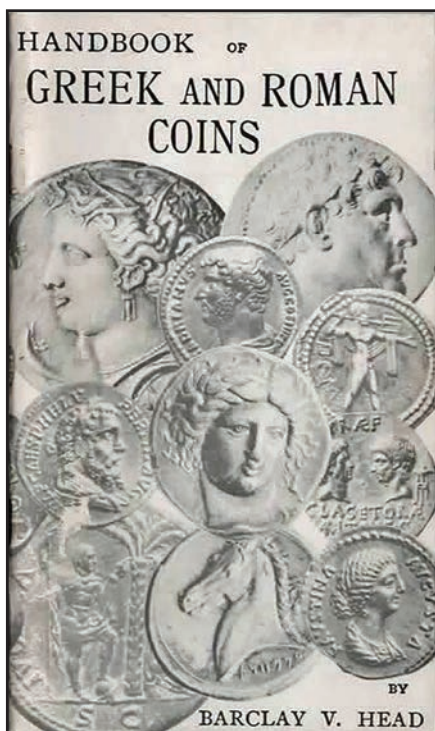


# The Evolution of a Small Numismatic Book

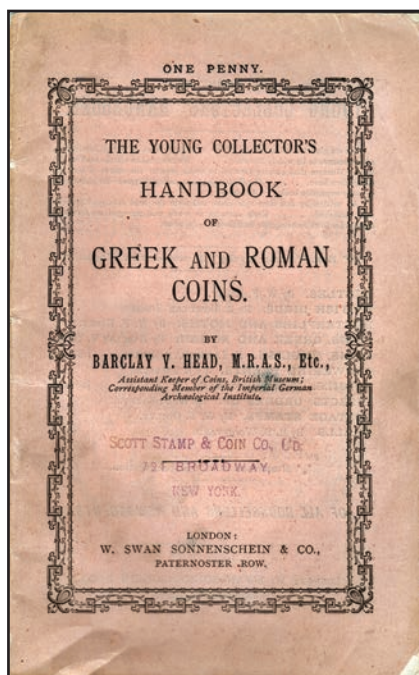
By William E. Daehn

One of the smallest books in my library is *Handbook of Greek and Roman Coins* by Barclay V. Head.<sup>1</sup> This collector's guidebook measures just 4.25 x 7.25 inches and contains only 32 pages. This modest book, published in 1969 by Attic Books Ltd., New York, has an interesting history. It obviously is a reprint of an earlier work, although there is no indication within the book that it is a reprint. But many years after obtaining the book, I was able to obtain the original edition, shedding light on its publication history.

The author, Barclay Vincent Head, was born in 1844. Head was an accomplished numismatist and author of several books and many articles on Greek ancient numismatics. He began work at the British Museum in 1864 and served as Keeper of the Department of Coins and Medals from 1893 to 1906. He died in 1914.<sup>2</sup> Head was the author and cataloguer of several volumes of the well-known *Catalogue of Greek Coins in the British Museum*, and is perhaps best known for his one-volume reference *Historia Numorum: A Manual of Greek Numismatics*, published in 1887. An updated



The 1969 Attic Books reprint



The 1871 original

edition of *Historia Numorum* was published in 1911 and has been reprinted several times, remaining a popular and authoritative reference.<sup>3</sup>

Head's little *Handbook* had its origin in the series of "Young Collectors' Handbooks" created by the British Museum in the late nineteenth century, exploring a variety of scientific and natural history topics. Some of the titles in the series included *Beetles*, by W. F. Kirby; *British Birds*, by R. Bowdler Sharpe; *Fossils*, by J. Britten; *Postage Stamps*, by W. T. Ogilvy; and *English Coins*, by Llewellyn Jewitt.

Barclay Head's contribution to the series appeared in 1871 as *The Young Collector's Handbook of Greek and Roman Coins*, published in London by W. Swan Sonnenschein & Co. (and originally priced at one British penny!). The back cover of this little guide consisted of an advertisement from Scott & Company, 721 Broadway, New York City, "Established 1860; Publishers of Stamp Albums, Coin Books, &c." The front cover of my copy of the book includes a rubber stamping which reads "Scott Stamp & Coin Co. L'D, 721 Broadway, New York"—likely the distributor of the book in the United States.

The book begins with a brief introduction to "The Science of Numismatics." This is followed by basic information on ancient Greek coins, periods of minting, metals used, basic terminology, and a review of the types of Greek coins. Then comes a description of the gods represented on coins, accompanied by line drawings of coins depicting the various gods. Next is information on the inscriptions found on coins, methods of dating coins, an explanation of coin denominations, and a geographical guide to the ancient Greek world. The few remaining pages are devoted to similar basic information about ancient Roman coins, and the book concludes with simple advice regarding counterfeit coins and on arranging a cabinet of coins. Head advises, "coins should be kept under lock and key in a mahogany cabinet." And his final piece of advice is truer today than ever before: "Under every coin there should be a descriptive card..." on which should be carefully recorded "the name of the persons from whom it was acquired." Head continued, "A coin from a well-known cabinet will always fetch more when sold than an equally fine specimen of which the antecedents are unknown."

In 1888, the publisher of the series combined Head's volume on ancient coins with Jewitt's volume on English coins to create a booklet titled *English Coins and Tokens, with a Chapter on Greek and Roman Coins*. Barclay Head's little guide then faded into obscurity until its revival by Attic Books in 1969.

It is unfortunate that some reprinters take efforts to disguise the fact that they are reprinting an older reference by omitting any mention of the original source. When Attic Books Ltd. reprinted Head's book, they shortened the title from *The Young Collector's Handbook of Greek and Roman Coins* to simply *Handbook of Greek and Roman Coins*. Presumably, by modifying the title they hoped to widen the audience for the book beyond those that are "young collectors."

For the reprint, the book was enlarged from its original 4 x 6.5 inch size, making the text and illustrations slightly larger, and an illustrated card cover replaced the original text-only thin paper cover. The inside of the original book was copied with just three minor modifications reflecting the shortened title: (1) on the title page the words "Young Collector's" were masked, leaving only "Handbook of Greek and Ro-

man Coins;” (2) at the top of the first page, “Young Collector’s Handbook of” was masked, leaving just “Greek and Roman Coins;” and (3) at the top of all subsequent even-numbered pages, the words “Young Collector’s” were masked, leaving only the word “Handbook.”

On the back cover, the original Scott & Co. advertisement was replaced by a table illustrating the Latin, early Greek, and late Greek equivalents of the English alphabet. This “Ancient Alphabets” table was taken from *A Catalogue of Greek Coins*, by Gilbert Askew, published by B. A. Seaby, Ltd., London, in 1951.<sup>4</sup> Only a portion of the original table was reproduced, and it was slightly rearranged to fit the back of the small *Handbook*.

By combining an obscure 1871 guide with a 1951 table and a 1969 cover, Attic Books created a still useful guide—nearly 100 years after its first publication. But with the reprint itself now being more than fifty years old, any “young collectors” who purchased a copy when it was published no longer fall into that category!



Notes:

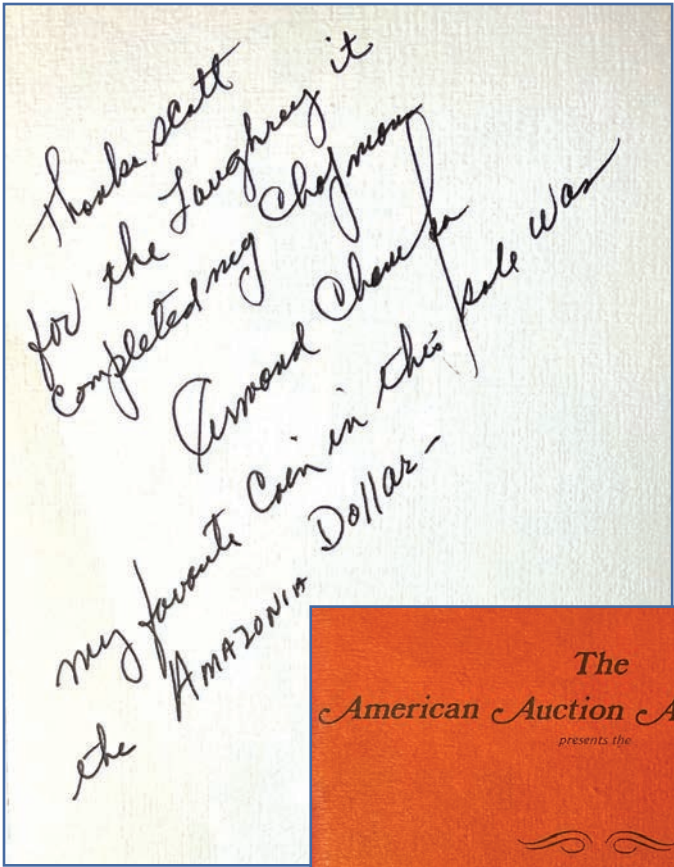
- <sup>1</sup> Barclay Head’s *Handbook* is listed as No. 321 in William E. Daehn, *Annotated Bibliography of Ancient Greek Numismatics*, Lancaster/London: Classical Numismatic Group, 2012.
- <sup>2</sup> From the Wikipedia entry on Barclay V. Head.
- <sup>3</sup> No. 90 in Daehn.
- <sup>4</sup> No. 305 in Daehn.

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# The Asylum


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The  
*American Auction Association Inc.*  
presents the

Armand Champa  
Collection  
--and other important consignments--



to be sold at  
PUBLIC AUCTION SALE  
MAY 19, 20, 1972  
Hollywood, California



# A Fascinating Armand Champa Inscription

By Cole Hendrickson

In the recent Kolbe & Fanning sale of the P. Scott Rubin library, I was fortunate to be able to acquire Rubin's complete set of Bowers & Ruddy and Bowers & Merena catalogs. Included amongst the several hundred different catalogs were important sales such as the Garrett, Brand, Norweb, and Bass collections. In addition to the many sales of coins, tokens, paper money, medals, and related items there were the famed four auction sales of the Armand Champa library. The May 19 & 20, 1972 sale of Champa's pattern collection was also included in the lot. This catalog turned out to be very interesting for several reasons. For one, it is considered the first catalog in the Bowers & Ruddy series. Interestingly, the company was listed as The American Auction Association. According to Martin Gengerke's *American Numismatic Auctions*, the first eleven Bowers & Ruddy sales were under this alternate name with the Bowers & Ruddy name first appearing on sale 4.

Despite these interesting facts, what I found really fascinating was an inscription on the inside front cover of the catalog written by Armand Champa himself! As someone who was not born until a few years after Champa's death, it is amazing to own an item that can be traced back to his hands. The inscription reads: "Thanks scott for the Laughrey it completed my Chapman / Armand Champa / my favorite Coin in the sale was the Amazonia Dollar." It is likely the case that Champa provided Rubin with this inscribed catalog to thank him for the Laughrey catalog.

This inscription was very intriguing as I was not familiar with the name Laughrey. However, the wording of the inscription indicates that it was likely the name of a consignor to a Chapman auction. A quick look inside volume one of John W. Adam's *United States Numismatic Literature* reveals that the main consignor to S.H. Chapman's June 25, 1919 sale was J.S. Laughrey.

James Schoonmaker Laughrey was born on April 6, 1874 to a wealthy Pennsylvania family. His father was a very successful businessman in the coal and coke industry. According to his page on findagrave.com, Laughrey had an affinity for fast cars and he "holds the distinction of, after purchasing his new White Steamer, being the first in Fayette County [Pennsylvania] to get a speeding ticket on July 4, 1907 while going through Vanderbilt." Unfortunately, the Laughrey family lost everything due to the downfall of the coal and coke industry. James never truly recovered from this setback and he eventually moved to Pennsauken, New Jersey to live with his daughter. He died there on February 9, 1945 at the age of 70.

Back to the inscription: we learn that Armand Champa's favorite coin from his pattern collection was the 1872 Amazonian Dollar which appeared in lot 1086 and sold for \$5500. We also learn that Champa was able to complete his set of Chapman catalogs with the receipt of the 1919 Laughrey sale.

The catalog referenced in the inscription is likely the same one that appears in Part Three of Bowers and Merena's sale of Armand Champa's library which occurred on September 10, 1995. Lot 2144 included seven S.H. Chapman catalogs from 1913–1919 with one of them being the 1919 Laughrey sale. Cataloger Charles Davis described the lot as "a grouping of seven sales including Sargent, Lyman, Jenness, Bierl, 6/28/1917, Barnet, and Laughrey, all small format catalogues in the original gilt-printed white card covers, Bierl is priced in red ink and has taped covers, Laughrey bears the inkstamp of Ted Leon and contains numerous pencil annotations, all in the original gilt-printed white card covers. Very Good to Fine." The lot was estimated at \$250 and sold for \$308 including the 10 percent buyers premium.

Interesting to note is the fact that a different copy of the Laughrey sale appeared in the recent Kolbe & Fanning sale of the P. Scott Rubin library where it sold for a whopping \$1,000 based on an estimate of \$150.

The several hundred Bowers & Ruddy and Bowers & Merena catalogs were a major addition to my library which required me to purchase two more bookcases! Despite the catalogs for many famous and notable sales, the single 1972 auction of Armand Champa's pattern collection stands out amongst the rest in large part due to the fascinating inscription on the inside front cover.



Sources:

Adams, John W. *United States Numismatic Literature. Volume 1: Nineteenth Century Auction Catalogs*. George Frederick Kolbe Publications. 1982.

Gengerke, Martin. *American Numismatic Auctions*. Newman Numismatic Portal. 2009.

*The Armand Champa Library*. Four volumes. Bowers & Merena. 1994–1995.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/79243909/james-schoonmaker-laughrey>

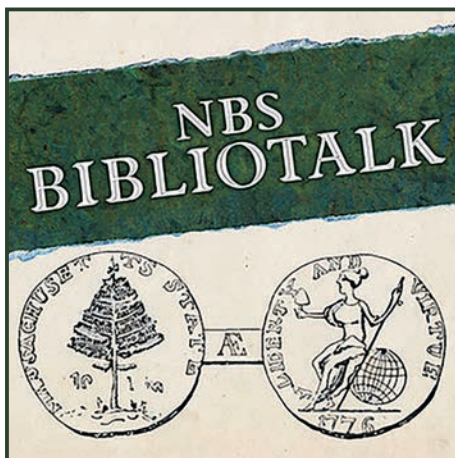
## NBS Bibliotalk

Podcast with Lianna Spurrier

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# Woodward's 96th Sale

By David Hirt

Woodward's 96th sale was held August 20 through 24, 1888. It was a sale of books and catalogs, and of the 3633 lots in the sale about 200 were numismatic. I believe that the numismatic and New England history books were from Woodward's library. If so, he must have been VERY disappointed with the abysmal prices realized.

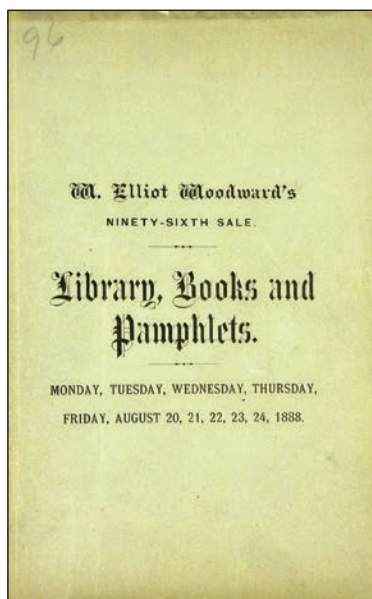
In *The Asylum* 19th century catalog survey published in 2005, only three copies of this sale were reported. Two of them are mine. Unfortunately, several NBS members with large holdings of catalogs did not respond to this survey. Too bad, but they must have had their reasons. Since that time, a few other copies of the 96th sale have been offered at auction. I am very lucky to have a priced catalog of this sale. Woodward was having problems with his eyesight, and VERY few copies were priced. Even the copy in ANS is not noted as priced.

I am not sure what the economic conditions were in 1888, but something effected the bidding, as the items in this sale brought extremely low prices. For example, Haseltine's type table catalog realized 1/4 cent! It would have been a numismatic literature collector's dream to have been a bidder as this sale. Quite a few lots in this sale are listed as "Out." Perhaps the bids were so low that WEW refused to honor them. One very large lot containing 598 pieces, with catalogs from RW Mercer, Fabyan, Haseltine, CL Stake, AB Sage, and many more realized \$2.50 for the lot. Most Cogan sales went for one cent each. Woodward's library sale of 6810 lots 1869 brought 35 cents.

A group of Woodward's sales were offered. His early sales, A,1,2,3 realized five cents each. His description of the Mickley sale catalogue is interesting. "Sells at auction at \$5 each. I will give \$4 each for as many copies as can be found." A bidder bought it in this sale for 20 cents!!

In the numismatic book section a thick paper copy of *Numisgraphics* realized \$1.25. Andrew's book on cents brought 25 cents. Barra's 1863 book *Something About Coins* was offered, but not sold. A manuscript of the Bache Collection, Brooklyn, 1820 had about a quarter page description, sold for 25 cents.

Cogan's *Dates of US Coins and Their Degree of Rarity* brought 8 cents, also his De-Haven catalogue brought one cent. A copy of Rembrandt Peele's *Washington Album* brought 3 cents. Ed Frossard's *Monograph of Cents & Half Cents* did a little better at 85 cents. A copy



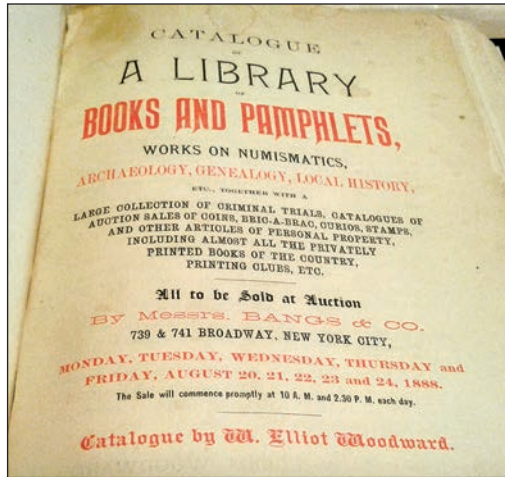
of Felt's *Account of Massachusetts Currency*, unbound in sheets sold for 5 cents.

*A History of Tsien*, or the Cash of China, which WEW stated usually sells for \$7 at auction, sold for 37.5 cents. The 1855 Kline sale, priced and named in the handwriting of Charles I Bushnell, bound in full turkey morocco gilt, inside tooling, realized \$1.37. The William H. Lee monograph, *Currency of the Confederate States of America*, was offered but not sold. The Davis book, *American Numismatic Literature* lists no copies of this book sold.

W.T.R. Marvin's work *The Medals of the Masonic Fraternity* did better and sold for \$4.12. Another book that brought a better price was Riddle's *Monograph of the Silver Dollar* at \$7.00. The 1859 *Peterson's Complete Coin Book* went for 13 cents.

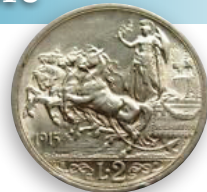
This work is also listed in the Charles Davis book as having no sales. *The Paper Money Of Pennsylvania*, and a rare monograph on the Anglo-American copper coinage, and a single number of the *Coin and Stamp Journal*, "which I wrote more than 100 letters before I was able to obtain it." It realized \$2.50.

I could have given many more rare items, the cataloging was incomplete, lacking date of issue or important information.



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# The Curious Evolution of a Classic Numismatic Reference

By Charles Sullivan

Over the course of the American numismatic experience, several collecting areas have inspired longstanding devotion among the cognoscenti. A prominent example is colonial and early federal copper; hobbyists have pursued prized specimens continuously since the middle of the nineteenth century. New varieties are being discovered, new reference volumes are being published, and new price records are being realized on a regular basis.

Another area of American numismatics with impressive staying power has been the paper money issued by the Confederate States of America (CSA) and its eleven member states from 1861–1865. In 2005, Pierre Fricke, a preeminent dealer in the field, writes in his 800-page magnum opus, *Collecting Confederate Paper Money: A Complete and Fully Illustrated Guide to All Confederate Note Types and Varieties*, “People began collecting CSA paper money not long after the fall of Richmond in 1865.”

Fifty years after the war ended, in 1915 collector William West Bradbeer self-published *Confederate and Southern State Currency*, which Fricke tells us “superseded many late-19th-century works and was more complete in scope.”<sup>1</sup> Fricke points out the work of three authors—Bradbeer, Grover Criswell, and himself—“represent[s] the primary 20th century guide lineage for Confederate currency.” Tinkers to Evers to Chance. Bradbeer to Criswell to Fricke.<sup>2</sup>

Bradbeer estimates the CSA and its eleven state governments, along with banks, railroads, insurance companies, merchants, municipalities, parishes, and other entities, printed approximately \$2.25 billion in paper money to finance the Civil War and to create circulating specie, about \$225 per capita. Sufficient quantities of notes have survived to feed the appetite of a large collector base for the last century and a half.<sup>3</sup>

Contemporary collectors of Confederate currency have access to a huge, ever-growing mountain of quality research. A subset of these collectors is also interested in the historical reference literature that has propelled Confederate numismatics over the past 150 years. I admit to having a foot in both camps—I collect Confederate

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1 Bradbeer (1875-1927) self-published at least one other numismatic reference, *Connecticut Paper Currency, 1709-1793*. A 44-page typewritten manuscript, devoid of illustrations, was accessioned by the Connecticut State Library in Hartford on June 5, 1923. Today's enthusiast may access the work via the internet. Apparently Bradbeer never took his manuscript to press.

2 Criswell (1934-99) founded *Bank Note Reporter* in 1973 and served as ANA president from 1977-79. The widely accepted “T number” system for classifying CSA note types is credited to him.

3 At one time Criswell claimed to have \$20 million face value in Confederate currency in his dealer stock.

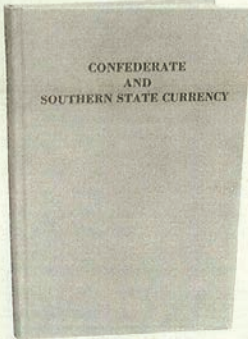
## REFERENCE • BOOK • OF • THE • MONTH

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OFFERING NO. 2

FEBRUARY 1983

FREE TO MEMBERS



\$6<sup>25</sup>  
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### CONFEDERATE and SOUTHERN STATE CURRENCY

by William West Bradbeer

Originally published in 1915, William Bradbeer's work was the early standard on Confederate and Southern States currency. It served as the guide for all future references. Biographical sketches and historical and financial data, all relating to the War Between the States, makes this book a must for the library of the serious currency collector. No valuations are offered, but a rarity scale is included. Long out-of-print, this edition is a 1956 reprint prepared by Aubree Bebee. The ANA Reference Book Club was fortunate in obtaining his limited remaining stock to offer collectors.

Currently advertised as \$20  
Hardcover. 277 pp. Illustrated.  
Quantity limited to stock on  
hand. One copy per member.

notes as well as books about these notes. In his preamble, Fricke, a spiritual disciple of Aaron Feldman<sup>4</sup>, advises readers:

Before you buy your first note, or add any more notes to your collection, you should consider reading these books [listed below] and making use of the following sources of information.

Fricke's writeup of the Bradbeer work intrigued me. The hunt was on.

### *The Original Bradbeer (1915)*

The Bradbeer book enjoyed immediate acclaim, as reported in the August 1915 *Numismatist*: "Mr. Bradbeer has made this subject an especial study for a number of years and undoubtedly is better posted on it than any other person." Bradbeer's work retailed for \$3.50 upon publication and contains 162 pages. The watershed volume represents both the best catalog of CSA-issued notes for its day as well as the most comprehensive listing of notes issued by the 11 state governments comprising the CSA. Note illustrations of notes are modest in number. Brief historical sketches flesh out the lives of the people whose portraits appear on Confederate notes. Bradbeer includes the statement "All rights reserved."

<sup>4</sup> Feldman, a New York City coin dealer, notably trumpeted "Buy the Book Before the Coin" in the 1960s.

Wanting to balance my book budget with my note budget, I made the conscious decision to postpone a lengthy search cycle and a projected expenditure of \$100+ to secure an original *Bradbeer*. However, although I could not find a copy at Kolbe & Fanning or eBay, Google located one at Harvard College's Widener Library, accessioned on March 9, 1916. This particular volume has had a sleepy shelf life; the most-recent borrower due date, posted inside the back cover, is May 17, 2000. Perhaps it is still collecting dust in Cambridge today.

Harvard's copy was still pristine at the time it was photographed and uploaded to the internet sometime in 2000 or later. The plates are clear enough to be of use to the casual note collector.

### *The First Reprint (1945)*

Putting aside my quest for an original *Bradbeer*, I settled for R.(uth) Green's reprint of 1945, which I purchased for \$15 from a non-numismatic internet bookseller.<sup>5</sup> In her publisher's Foreword, Ruth writes

During the past fourteen years I tried at least a dozen times to secure Bradbeer's book on "Confederate and Southern State Currency." Each time it appeared in auction or was offered for sale, at a higher price. Only a few weeks ago I was successful at \$35.00. A price I felt was too high, especially after examining the book.

For years I have felt when a recognized work on any series was over priced it discouraged collecting the series, with that idea in mind I have reprinted Bradbeer's work adding most of the work written by Mr. H.D. Allen, appearing in the *Numismatist* for 1917; 1918; and 1919.

Who is the collector alive who hasn't "overpaid" on occasion for an item they have been chasing for years?

Later in her Foreword, Ruth thanks the American Numismatic Association (ANA) for reprint rights to the Allen material and for the September 1927 *Numismatist* article entitled "Texas Treasury Warrants" by D.C. Wismer.<sup>6</sup> She lists ANA board members by name, including one Dr. J. Hewitt Judd.<sup>7</sup> And she thanks the legendary B. Max

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5 Ruth Scrivner Green (1898-1979) and husband Charles Elmore Green (1894-1955) were coin dealers in Chicago operating under the trade name "R. Green." Charles was an early co-author of Whitman's *The Handbook of United States Coins*, aka the "Blue Book." For purposes of this article, in which reference is made to "Ruth" as publisher, it is assumed her words and actions reflect those of both Ruth and Charles. Interestingly R. Green's voluminous advertising copy was typically written in the first-person voice.

6 David Cassel Wismer (1857-1949) was "a pioneer researcher in the field of obsolete paper money." He held ANA Member Number 127. The Society of Paper Money Collectors "Wismer Project," launched in 1964, is an ongoing campaign to publish detailed state-by-state guides.

7 John Hewitt Judd (1899-1986) would later serve as ANA president (1953-55) and in 1959 published *United States Pattern, Experimental, and Trial Pieces*, thus joining Bradbeer as a "pioneer scholar" of a popular collecting niche.

Mehl.<sup>8</sup>

The specific acknowledgement of Mehl's contribution to the 1945 *Bradbeer*, thanking him for "his kindness in offering illustrations of these [Texas] notes," along with a shout out to Loyd Gettys<sup>9</sup>, who "very graciously loaned me his collection of Confederate paper money to photograph and use in illustrating any articles needed for this work," are most curious in light of the fact Ruth incorporates illustrations from *neither* source in her reprint.

Ruth's high-level name dropping would not have been obvious to the reader of 1945. An analysis of the illustrations appearing in the three original source publications (1915 *Bradbeer*, 1917–1919 *Numismatist*, September 1927 *Numismatist*), compared to the 1945 reprint, shows evidence of *no* new plates dating after 1927.

The obfuscation is carried over in her promotion of the Bradbeer reprint as well. In her November 1945 *Numismatist* advertisement, she writes

The rarest of the numismatic books published during the twentieth century... The reprint is limited to 1,000 copies and will be far superior to the original. Due to unexpected costs I will have to increase the price to \$5.00. Orders received prior to Nov. 20th 1945 PREPAID \$4.00. Orders received Nov 20th and thereafter, prepaid \$5.00.<sup>10</sup>

The only "far superior" aspect of the 1945 *Bradbeer* over the 1915 *Bradbeer* is the inclusion of the Allen and Wismer articles. Whereas the original 1915 edition contains 162 pages, the 1945 reprint runs 277 numbered pages plus an additional 14 pages encompassing the Wismer material (numbered 156A to 156N). Ruth maintains Bradbeer's original pagination intact. The Allen articles occupy the back part of the book (pages 163–277), whereas the Wismer article is inserted between the South Carolina chapter and the original Texas chapter. The reprint is photo reproduced, not typeset. Bradbeer's 1915 copyright notice has been removed. The book is bound in pale blue cloth with gold lettering.

Ruth's 1,000 copies lasted about a decade, for by 1956 *Bradbeer* had become a rare item once again. Coin dealer Aubrey Bebee offered the 1945 *Bradbeer* in the August 1956 *Numismatist*, stating "Only a few left at \$7.50."<sup>11</sup>

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8 Russian immigrant Benjamin Max Mehl (1884-1957), based in Fort Worth, Texas, was indisputably the best-known coin dealer in the United States during the first half of the twentieth century. He invested enormous sums promoting coin collecting to the general public.

9 Gettys (1893-1982) would later serve as ANA president (1947–49) and wrote articles on paper money for the *Numismatist*.

10 In the same November 1945 advertisement, Ruth offers a reprint of Sylvester Crosby's *Early Coins of America* for \$20. "Limited print run of 500 copies." She includes a supplement detailing those colonials discovered after the publication of the original book in 1875. Crosby's work has been reprinted many times over the last 145 years.

11 Aubrey (1906-92) and Adeline Bebee (d. 1998), based in Omaha, Nebraska, were major players in the coin business in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Aubrey was Charter Member Number 1 of the Professional Numismatists Guild in 1955. The couple's 80-page "Bargain Retail Catalogue," published annually, was a significant numismatic resource. The Bebees promoted numismatic literature tirelessly during the early part of their careers, thereby helping to stoke the surge in demand for numismatic literature after World War II.



## *The Second Reprint (1956)*

Five months later, in the January 1957 *Numismatist*, Aubrey offered his own *Bradbeer*, a “New reprint, just off the press” at \$7.50. Aubrey writes in his Foreword:

Due to the unprecedented number of new collectors of Confederate Paper Money it has become increasingly most difficult to secure a copy of the standard reference “Confederate and Southern States[sic] Currency” by Bradbeer. Having received innumerable requests for this book, which continues to be the most popular in the series, I have decided to have it reprinted and made available to collectors.

He thanks Mr. R.F. Schermerhorn for supplying “the Republic of Texas and Government of Texas Notes.”<sup>12</sup> He goes on to say “...I wish to thank Ruth Green for her kindness in offering illustrations of notes.” His acknowledgement of Ruth Green implies (a) he had bought some (or all) of R. Green’s inventory of *Bradbeer*; and (b) he had reprinted the 1945 edition with the publisher’s permission.<sup>13</sup> A side-by-side comparison of the 1945 and 1956 volumes shows them to be virtually identical. The note plates are neither augmented in quantity nor enhanced in quality. A copyright notice is still missing. The page count is the same (*i.e.*, 277 + 14 for the Wismer selection). The book is once again photo reproduced, not typeset. Aubrey’s only modifications to Ruth’s version are to revise the Foreword and to change the color of the cover to a soft grey with navy lettering, a subtle nod to the Confederate infantryman’s uniform.

Aubrey’s final honoree, yet another “contributor” who appears to have made no contribution to the 1956 reprint, is “Mr. D.O. Barrett, Curator, of Boy’s Town Philamatic Center, which exhibits the largest collection of Confederate paper money in America.” Barrett is commended for helping to photograph the notes supplied by Schermerhorn.<sup>14</sup> As is the case with the 1945 reprint, there is no illustration in the 1956 reprint that does not appear in the 1915 original edition, 1917-19 *Numismatist*, or September 1927 *Numismatist*.

The quantity of copies Aubrey printed in 1956 is unknown. Presumably around 1982, Bebee’s sold its remaining inventory of *Bradbeer* to the ANA Library. In February 1983, ANA members belonging to the Reference Book Club of the Month were offered a copy of the 1956 *Bradbeer* from Bebee’s “limited remaining stock.” On an inflation-adjusted basis, the ANA Library’s price of \$6.25 was a screaming bargain compared to the author’s price of \$3.50 in 1915, Ruth’s introductory price of \$4.00 in

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12 Whether Schermerhorn, who hailed from Dallas, Texas, was Aubrey’s customer or fellow dealer is unclear; in the September 1956 *Numismatist*, Schermerhorn had placed a full-page advertisement offering to buy many types of federal notes, national gold bank notes, and territorial notes from various western states (but not Texas).

13 It may be remembered Charles Green had passed the year before, in 1955.

14 Dwight Orion Barrett (1894-1964) donated his holdings of stamps and bank notes in 1947 to Boys Town (located just west of Omaha). His gift became the foundation of the Philamatic Center. Later he served as the unpaid curator of the collection. As is the case with Schermerhorn, Barrett may have been a Bebee’s customer.

1945, and Aubrey's price of \$7.50 in 1957.<sup>15</sup>

William Bradbeer compiled his work for the love of the hobby. As Ruth tells us, the book had become expensive and rare by 1945. The second chapter of the *Bradbeer* era lasted barely a decade before the book merited another release. The Greens and the Bebees, two husband-and-wife teams rarely found among the ranks of major coin dealers, either then or now, reprinted *Bradbeer* not as a moneymaker but rather as a means of growing their respective customer bases. At about the same time the 1956 reprint appeared, the flamboyant Grover Criswell was beginning a four-decade crusade as author and promoter extraordinaire of CSA paper money, the greatest champion this segment of the hobby has ever known. Given the volume of CSA catalogs and studies released by Criswell and his contemporaries, it is not surprising Aubrey's print run in 1956 was adequate to satisfy collector demand for 25+ years.

### *Later Reprints (2011 to Present)*

Five decades elapsed before a third *Bradbeer* reprint hit the market. Around 2011 non-numismatic entrepreneurs began offering inexpensive versions of Bradbeer's original 1915 publication, as is evidenced by the page count of 162 (*i.e.*, no Allen or Wismer selections). Numismatic scholarship took a decided U-turn, for modern publishers of *Bradbeer* have been totally devoid of numismatic knowledge. They have seized upon the chance to make a quick buck by securing an old book with no copyright. The print quality of the text and the clarity of the note plates in the new books are not improved since the 1945 and 1956 reprints.

Whereas 10 years ago the first *Bradbeer* reissuers of the modern era might have printed perhaps 25–50 copies in the hope they would sell, today's print-on-demand technology allows publishers to collect the customer's money up front and then produce a single volume economically. Customer choices abound. A bare-bones *Bradbeer* reprint in paper cover currently runs about \$10. For approximately \$50, a collector may order a "deluxe" volume, often imported. Here is a typical pitch:

Leather Binding on Spine and Corners with Golden Leaf Printing and embossing with round Spine completely handmade binding. Reprinted in 2020 with the help of original edition published long back [1915]. This book is printed in black & white, sewing binding for longer life, Printed on high quality Paper, re-sized as per Current standards, professionally processed without changing its contents.<sup>16</sup>

No *Bradbeer* printed after 1956 has more content than the 1915 edition. And no publisher has typeset the book since 1915 either.

Tastes and budgets in numismatic book collecting will always differ. Admittedly one benefit of the print-on-demand revolution is virtually any vintage numismatic reference, once out of copyright, can be reproduced quickly and sold inexpensively.

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15 The February 1983 notice sent to members of the book club states *Bradbeer* is "Currently advertised at \$20." Whether Bebee's was charging \$20 in 1982 is unclear. By this time the firm's *Numismatist* advertising was not showcasing numismatic literature as it had during the halcyon 1950s.

16 The vendor who promoted this volume on Amazon.com is based in India.

Would a high-quality, thoughtfully conceived *Bradbeer* reprint be well received in today's marketplace? This is as much a philosophical question as an economic one. No *Bradbeer* has ever sported a flashy cover (which helps sell books). A reprint of the 1915 version would be less useful to today's CSA collector than either the 1945 or 1956 versions. Other Confederate catalogs tend to be much better illustrated. *Bradbeer* has rarity ratings but no prices. Nor does *Bradbeer* split microns in listing dozens of printing-plate varieties for a single note type, which many modern collectors seem to crave.

Yet *Bradbeer* does retain its charm as a classic reference volume, for one can only imagine the pleasure and satisfaction William Bradbeer, the groundbreaker, derived from pulling together information from disparate sources and compiling a volume which is both readable by those with only mild interest in the topic and yet helpful to those looking to assemble an appealing collection of Confederate paper money.

One famous coin collector of recent times is reputed to have amassed an extensive and expensive numismatic library whose volumes were rarely opened. I fall on the opposite end of the spectrum. One day I will acquire a 1915 *Bradbeer*, perhaps well worn, and place it on the shelf right next to the 1945 and 1956 versions, sandwiched between Fricke and Criswell.

*I wish to commend Pete Smith for his superb, and indispensable, American Numismatic Biographies. And I wish to thank Joel Orosz for his keen insights and helpful suggestions in preparing this article.*



<p><b>STEPHEN ALBUM RARE COINS</b></p>  <p><b>stevealbum.com</b></p>	<p><i>Connect with your fellow bibliomaniacs!</i></p>  <p>INSTAGRAM numismaticbibliomania</p>  <p>FACEBOOK Numismatic-Bibliomania-Society</p>
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Form R-1 (For old records only)

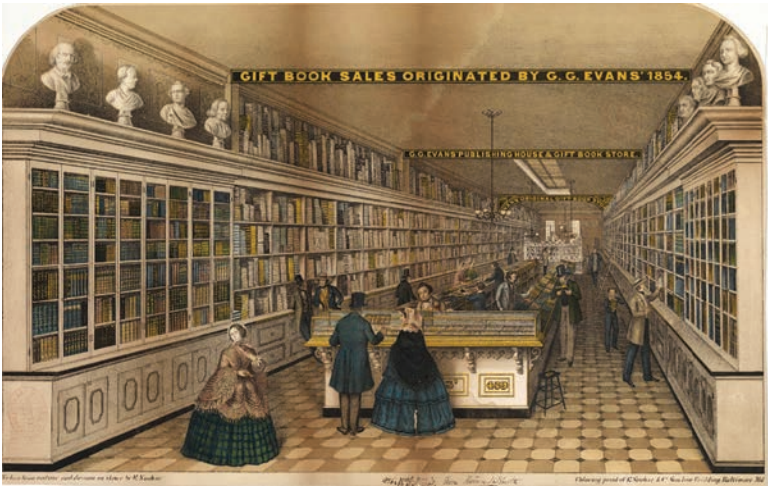
**COPY OF AN OLD RECORD  
OF A BIRTH**

Place of Birth Brimingham  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name George Scumblif Evans  
Date of Birth July 7, 1854  
Sex M Color W  
Living or Stillborn \_\_\_\_\_  
No. of Child, 1st, 2nd, etc. \_\_\_\_\_  
Father's Name David Evans jr  
" Color \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
" Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_  
" Residence Brighton  
Father's Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's Maiden Name Lucas  
" Color \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's Residence Brighton  
" Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_  
" Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
Source of Record \_\_\_\_\_

**State of Maine**

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the birth recorded in \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Leah Ann Bennett  
1858

George G. Evans' birth record



George G. Evans' store



# Evans and Smith

By Pete Smith

Two rival publishers offered guide books to visitors at the United States Mint in Philadelphia in 1885. A recently discovered letter offers insight into their rivalry. A.M. Smith had sold thousands of copies of his *Coins and Coinage* at the Mint since 1881. In 1885 he came out with a larger revised and improved *Visitor's Guide and History of the United States Mint, Philadelphia, Pa.* In that same year an author with no numismatic credentials, George G. Evans, published his *Illustrated History of the United States Mint*. Two years later one publisher was going strong while the other had packed up and left the state.

## George Greenlief Evans

Relatively little has been previously published about George G. Evans. While doing research for this article I found both his birth and death records. He was born in Bingham, Maine, on July 9, 1829, into a family with Welsh ancestry. His parents were Daniel W. Evans (1803–1887) and Susan Bean (1804–1888). One of his uncles was George Evans (1797–1867) who served as a U.S. Representative and later as a U.S. Senator.

George left home in Maine to work for a relative, Thomas Wallis Evans (1811–1897) who had a dry goods store at 818 Chestnut in Philadelphia. In 1854, with financial backing from his family, Evans opened his Great Gift Bookstore at 439 Chestnut in the bookselling district of Philadelphia.

He was a pioneer in offering premiums (gifts) with purchase that were selected by store staff. Most customers received cheap jewelry. Perhaps a few received better gifts valued up to \$100. Customers were encouraged to form book clubs to acquire better gifts with larger purchases. The Evans operation became the largest of five such gift book stores in Philadelphia.

George married Ellen Bradley (1833–1898) on November 26, 1857. Their three children were Florence Alice Evans (1859–1933), George Gerald Evans (1860–1942), and Bertram B. Evans (1868–1944).

In an 1860 newspaper ad, Evans stated, “I will furnish any book (of a moral character) published in the United States.” Later in the ad he offered, “All the writings of every standard author in every department of literature, in every style of binding, at the publisher’s lowest price.”

George had a younger brother, Daniel Webster Evans (1833–1899) who was originally a partner before he opened the Pioneer Gift Book Store in New York. The brothers published similar catalogs as G.G. Evans and D.W. Evans.

During the Civil War, George served briefly from May 16, 1861, until August 26, 1861, as a private with the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry. This was a volunteer militia that was accepted into service with the U.S. Cavalry for a ninety-day enlistment.

In 1862 he ventured into sales of California wine and issued 10,000 encased postage stamps to advertise the product. It is estimated that fifteen of the one cent (blue) issues may survive, ten of the three cent (red) and a single example of the ten cent (green) issue. The wine venture failed with the 1862 crop failure.



Evans is often credited as the author of *Illustrated History of the United States Mint with a Complete Description of American Coinage*. This is an incorrect statement. The title page states that it is edited by the publisher. The book was compiled from various sources including flattering descriptions of Mint officers.

With each sale, the buyer received a small medalet with the Lord's Prayer, struck by George Soley on a surplus old Mint press that is now at the ANA Museum. The 1892 edition of *Illustrated History* includes this description:

The Lord's Prayer Medalet.

This fac-simile presents the smallest space in which the Lord's Prayer was ever known to be struck on Metal.

It was made on the first "Steam Coining Press", used by The U.S. Mint in 1836, This press is now in the possession of G. B. Soley, Philadelphia.

These medalets are not for sale at the Mint, but are presented to purchasers of the Mint book.

In 1894 the Secret Service banned production and sale of the Evans book because it contained illustrations of all the current coins of the country, contrary to the Act of February 10, 1891. Similar illustrations had been included since the 1885 edition but now included the new Barber 1892 half dollar, a current coin. Evans continued to publish but later editions only included rare coins that commanded a premium.

They also banned sale of the Lord's Prayer medalets. Medals produced on the former steam press had been sold without problems by George Soley at the World's Columbian Exposition.

Many of the books sold by Evans were remainders or reprints of popular titles. It was reported that Evans sales amounted to 3000 books per day, more than 60,000 per month and a million volumes in a year.

In a November 1, 1989, article in *Coin World*, Fred L. Reed III analyzed the titles published by Evans. He reported that many had anti-Jewish or anti-Catholic themes.



The graves of George Evans and his wife.

Another theme focused on a northern view of the south before the Civil War.

Evans died at 830 Beechwood Street in Philadelphia on June 2, 1906. He and his wife, Ellen, are buried in West Laurel Hill Cemetery in Bala Cynwyd, a Welsh suburb of Philadelphia.

## *The Evans Book*

There are hundreds of varieties of Evans' *Illustrated History of the United States Mint* that have never been completely catalogued. When George Kolbe conducted the November 2007 sale of Frank Van Zandt's library, lot 796 included 158 copies of the Evans book and even that group probably did not have all the varieties.

Editions are dated 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1896, 1897, 1898, and 1901. These may be grouped by their cover illustrations.

The 1885 first edition had the shorter title of *History of the United States Mint at Philadelphia*. This had a gilt stamped image of the Mint on the front cover. Binding variations included russet or brown cloth, flexible brown leather tied at spine, and dark brown quarter morroco.

An 1885 revised edition followed with a gilt banner on the cover. Cover colors are described as brown, maroon, red, and olive gray. It also came in paper covers, half morocco and full morocco. Printed by Dunlap & Clarke, 819–21 Filbert Street. Portrait of Daniel Fox follows page 104. Numbered pages: 162.

The 1886 to 1890 and early 1891 editions had a gilt stamped title and the illustration of obverse and reverse of an 1849 twenty-dollar gold coin. Bindings were cloth, paper, half morocco and full morocco.

With the 1888 edition, the portrait of Fox follows page 108, sometimes facing page 108, sometimes facing 109. Numbered pages: 160.

For the 1890 edition, portrait of Superintendent Oliver Bosbyshell follows page 110. Numbered pages: 153. An ad for Scott Stamp and Coin is on page 154.

With a later 1891 edition came a gilt stamped title and spread eagle imprint. The covers varied in texture and with the blind stamped corners. Evans address at 1227 Chestnut Street on title page. Portrait of Mint Director Edward Leech (1850–1900)

follows page 96.

In 1892 came the special U.S. Mint Centennial edition with gilt stamped cover. Title page came with no notation, the notation, “(Seventy-first thousand)” or the notation “(Eighty-first Thousand).” Dunlap & Clark are now at 1306-9-10 Filbert Street. Between pages 88 and 89 are 32 plates of coins with valuations. Numbered pages: 179.

The 1893 edition included “COLUMBIAN / EDITION / 1893” gilt stamped on the spine. The front cover had a gilt circular medallion of Christopher Columbus. Title page had the notation, “(Ninety-first thousand)” Twenty-four pages of plates of coins are between pages 88 and 89. Numbered pages: 179.

With the 1896 edition came the notation, “(Ninety-fifth Thousand).

The 1897 and 1898 editions have the notation, (Ninety-seventh Thousand).” Evans’ address is now 2330 Parrish Street. Portrait of Herman Kretz follows page 90. Numbered pages: 137.

The 1901 edition again features an eagle on the cover. Quantity indicated is “(One Hundred and Thirtieth Thousand).”

The book was reprinted in 1997 by Sanford Durst from the 1892 edition with a glowing foreword by Eva Adams. An index is added at the back and original ads are replaced by ads for Durst. Binding is simple white cloth and size is reduced.

There are distinct color variations in covers that include brown, maroon, crimson, orange, blue, green and black. There are other color variations observed that may be actual or may represent the effects of fading.

Most copies include ads in the back with the number of ads variable within a single edition. Prominent ads include The Real Estate Trust Company and David F. Conover & Co, The 1893 edition has an ad for Evans’ next publication *Visitors’ Companion*.

## A.M. Smith

My interest in A.M. Smith goes back to the summer of 1978. I was working in Human Resources Information Systems for the Minneapolis Public Schools. One day a co-worker in the Data Processing Department brought in a bottle he had dug out of ash at a construction site. The bottle was marked with the name of A. M. SMITH / 249 HEN Av. / MINNEAPOLIS / MINN. CALIFORNIA / WINE DEPOT / ESTABLISHED 1872.

I recognized the name as someone who compiled numismatic books published in Philadelphia. In a short time I was able to confirm that A.M. Smith in



A.M. Smith



Salt Lake City, Philadelphia and Minneapolis were all the same man.

Smith produced promotional products for his California Wine Depot that included in addition to the embossed bottles, corkscrews, funnels, shot glasses, serving trays and many other items. In time I collected more than a hundred different items.

I also collected every edition of every Smith book I could find and created an exhibit for the annual bottle show in Minnesota and won Best-of-Show in 1990. Later I went national with an exhibit of "The Challenging Literature of A.M. Smith" that took Best of Show at the Denver ANA convention in 1996.

Anders Madsen Smedt was born on February 4, 1841, in Knusbol, Denmark. His father was Mads Hansen Smedt and grandfather was Hans Andersen making a three generation loop through the family name. Mads was a husky blacksmith who died when Anders was about two years old. Anders' mother was Anna Dorteia Christensen who moved with her four children to Nyborg. She worked hard as a cook and merchant during the Danish-Prussian War of 1848–1851. She lost her savings to her second husband and divorced about 1849.

When Anders should have been in school, he preferred to hang out with the soldiers and sailors about the fort at Nyborg. This prepared him for the life of a sailor and soldier. Such a career was deferred when, at age 14, he was apprenticed as a moulder in an iron foundry. He fought with his boss and left after two years. Then he ventured off to Copenhagen to work as a cook on a Dutch merchant ship. Eventually he worked his way to Philadelphia on May 1, 1859, and adopted an Americanized version of his name as Andrew Madsen Smith.

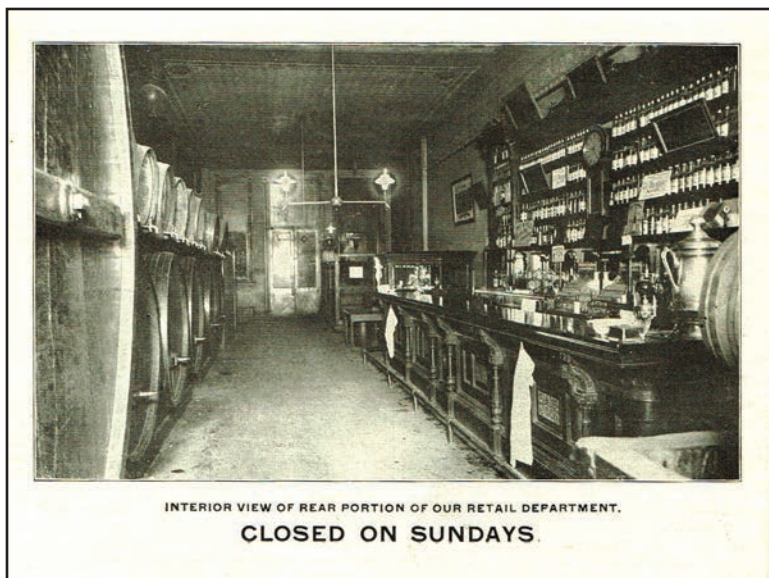
When the Civil War broke out, Smith enlisted with the 13th Indiana Regiment on April 22, 1861. He suffered a hernia jumping over a fence and received a disability discharge on October 2, 1862. He was accepted for service in the Union Navy and served as a cook with the Mississippi Squadron. When Vicksburg was surrendered to Grant, Smith was there.

Smith was discharged from the Navy on July 8, 1864, and bought a ticket to San Francisco. After a brief job at the salt works, he enlisted with the Second California Regiment for service against Indians in Arizona Territory. On May 8, 1866, Smith earned citizenship in the United States and he was discharged from the Army on May 10.

He found work as a laborer on the Transcontinental Railroad and earned a promotion to supervisor. In the winter he was employed as a baggage handler. The golden spike was installed at Promontory, Utah territory on May 10, 1869, marking the end of railroad construction. Smith thought he would settle down as a farmer on land near Elko, Nevada. A killing frost on August 8, 1870, ruined his crop.

At Ogden Station, Utah Territory, he got a job as a watchman on the railroad. At Ogden, passengers transferred from the Central Pacific to the Union Pacific railroad. One of those passengers was a single woman from Denmark, Botilla Elberg, on her way to meet her brother in California. After distant correspondence and romance, she returned to Ogden to marry Smith.

After receiving \$2000 in wine on consignment, he moved into an eleven-foot wide space shared with a fruit dealer in Salt Lake City. Prosperity did not come easily but came eventually. He invested in corner lots in Salt Lake City and had assets of ten thousand dollars by 1875.



A.M. Smith's store

Convinced that he had grown too big for Salt Lake City, he set off for Philadelphia and the Centennial celebrations. Success there also did not come easily and he lost money by offering liberal credit. He changed his business model to cash and carry and became successful.

Smith joined G.A.R. Post 2 in Philadelphia. Other local members were Mint coin-er and future Superintendent, Oliver Bosbyshell (1839–1921), and coin dealer John W. Haseltine (1838–1925). With financial success, Smith became a coin collector and used the G.A.R. for networking. He used his wine advertising to also solicit the purchase of coins. His first price list in 1879 had wine prices on one side and coin buying prices on the other. He published a newsletter in 1880 to 1881. In 1881 he published *Coins and Coinage, the United States Mint*. This would continue through a dozen editions. In 1886 he claimed that he had sold 50,000 copies in three years.

His next book, published in 1885, was *Visitors Guide and History of the United States Mint, Philadelphia*. This was offered in full Russia binding at \$1.50, in quarter leather for \$1.50, in cloth for \$1.00 and paperbound for \$.50. This went into immediate competition with Evans. Only one edition was published.

Smith compiled his *Illustrated Encyclopedia of Gold and Silver Coins of the World* for publication in 1886. There was only the one edition, but several colors and bindings and different quality of bindings. A person could create an exhibit based on the many variations of Smith publications.

Around 1887, Smith moved to Minneapolis and opened a store at 249 Hennepin near the train station in the heart of the commercial district. He took mail orders and shipped spirits by rail to customers in dry states. He expanded to take over the restaurant at 247 Hennepin. His home was within walking distance on Nicollet Island.

As had Evans, Smith offered promotional items with wine sales that were imprint-

ed with his name. Some were functional like a can opener, corkscrews, shot glasses, beer steins and serving trays. He issued boxes of dominoes and packs of playing cards. From Smith one could get a safety razor or a clothes brush. These are highly collectible in Minneapolis but less appreciated around the country.

Smith joined the American Numismatic Association as member 302 in June of 1901. His ad in *The Numismatist* offered uncirculated coins obtained during his time in Philadelphia. He ran an ad for his *Illustrated Coin Book* on the back page of *The Numismatist* for March 1908.

Andrew Madsen Smith died in Minneapolis on July 20, 1915. He is buried at Lakewood Cemetery in the family plot with his son but there is no marker on the grave.

Smith's first son, George Washington Smith, was born in Philadelphia on February 15, 1875. He attended law school in Minnesota and practiced as an attorney before moving to France and losing contact with his family in Minnesota. He died in Paris in October of 1927. One of his descendants contacted me after reading some of my earlier articles about Smith.

His second son, Author Mason Smith, had been born in Philadelphia on September 11, 1879. He managed the wine business in Minneapolis until prohibition in 1919. He went into the sand and gravel business and opened a Ford agency, the Universal Car Agency, in business 1921 to 1932. The company went broke during the depression and Author died in Minneapolis on September 8, 1932.

Author and Anna Louise Bittdorf had four children. I met two of them when I was doing my research some 35 to 40 years ago. One of them recalled the library at the home filled to the ceiling with books. I have also met a grandson who consigned some of the Smith Library to an auction by Remy Bourne on October 6, 2000.

## A.M. Smith's Books

Smith compiled the book known as *Coins and Coinage, the United States Mint, Philadelphia* and various other names, published from 1881 to 1886 and sold at the Mint. This was issued in a large number of varieties. Early issues had a frontispiece of Superintendent A. Loudon Snowden (1837-1912). After 1885 the frontispiece became Superintendent Daniel M. Fox (1819-1890). The Fall 1991 issue of *The Asylum* included my article, "A.M. Smith's *Coins and Coinage*: A Trial List." I listed 27 variants.

The paperbound issue had a totally different title, *Illustrated History of the U.S. Mint, United States and Colonial Coins*. Smith then added "Visitor's Guide" to this title page along with a flower and leaves border and produced a revised and enlarged edition.

The only edition of *Visitor's Guide* known is dated 1885. However, there are several variations seen in the binding and two variations in content. These descriptions are based on what I see in my collection. I suspect there may be others.

1. Russet cloth, fine texture, frontispiece black print of Liberty and Eagle. A frontispiece plate of Daniel M. Fox is different from the plates seen in Evans. Printer Matlock & Harvey, 224-28 S. FIFTH ST. PHILA. on bottom of title page. Mint Director James Kimball (1836-1913) plate missing. Page 128 has engraving with head and helmets. Size 6.2 x 9.3 inches.

2. Burgundy cloth, coarse pebbled texture, paper front cover bound in, frontispiece black print of Liberty and Eagle, frontispiece of Daniel M. Fox. Printer Matlock & Harvey, 224–28 S. FIFTH ST. PHILA. on bottom of title page. Kimball plate missing. Page 28 has head and helmet.
3. Brown cloth, thin covers with no boards, paper cover bound in, black Liberty and eagle, frontispiece of Daniel M. Fox. Printer Matlock & Harvey, 224–28 S. FIFTH ST. PHILA. on bottom of title page. Kimball plate missing. Page 128 has head and helmets.
4. Black cloth, gild stamped title. No frontispiece. Printer Matlock & Harvey, 224–28 S. FIFTH ST. PHILA. on bottom of title page. Kimball plate missing. Page 128 has head and helmets. Size 6 x 8.7 inches. Printed images are the same size but page size is smaller.
5. Burgundy cloth with gold stamped Liberty astride an eagle tossing coins from a cornucopia; black stamped border. Frontispiece plate of Daniel M. Fox. No printer mentioned on title page; steel plate engraving of James Kimball and four pages of text inserted between pages 4 and 5, page 128 has Italian coins, 176 pages. Size 6.2 x 9.3 inches.
6. Russet cloth, fine texture, Fox frontispiece, no printer noted. Kimball plate and text between pages 4 and 5. Page 128 has Italian coins.
7. Russet cloth, fine pebbled texture, Fox frontispiece, no printer noted. Kimball plate and text between pages 4 and 5. Page 128 has Italian coins.
8. Same as above in olive cloth.
9. Burgundy cloth, fine texture, wide black stamped border, Fox frontispiece, no printer noted. Kimball plate and text between pages 4 and 5. Page 128 has Italian coins. Same variety as Heritage / EPN 11/7/2018, lot 15971.

It is likely that the Kimball plate and Italian coins were added after the initial production of the book. Removing the name of the printer suggest that a different printer was used.

A person seeing one copy of the book might describe the cover as brown and that would be correct. When presented with two books, it may be difficult to describe the color differences with words. In using the terms burgundy and russet, I am attempting to show that they are different. I could look to my paint set and call them burnt umber and raw sienna but I don't think that would help.

## *Compare and Contrast*

1. Smith was an immigrant from a family with limited financial resources. He failed in many businesses before finding success in Salt Lake City. Evans came from a family of means with financial backing that



allowed him to succeed.

2. Smith dropped out of school at age 14. Evans had a classical education.
3. Smith's first book had the alternate title, *Illustrated History of the U.S. Mint*. The Evans book had the title *Illustrated History of the United States Mint*.
4. The Smith *Visitors Guide* was published in a single edition in 1886. The Evans Mint Guide went through 13 editions from 1886 to 1901. There are some binding varieties of the Smith book but varieties of the Evans book are endless.
5. Smith's *Visitors Guide* has forty pages of Mint history, processes and biography followed by 135 pages with coin descriptions. Evans' *Illustrated History* has forty pages of history and processes followed by forty-nine pages of coin descriptions followed by forty pages of biographies.
6. The Evans books are frequently seen in the literature marketplace. The Smith book appears to be somewhat scarce.
7. Both books include some of the same illustrations. Both were assembled from other sources.
8. Evans had a brief venture into the California wine business in 1862, Smith began in the wine business about 1871 with the family continuing the business until prohibition in 1919.
9. Smith was a serious coin collector and acquired some patterns and favors through the Mint. There is no evidence that Evans collected coins.
10. Smith had an extensive numismatic library. Evans was in the book selling business but there is no evidence of an interest in numismatic books.

## The Evans Letter

Researcher Roger Burdette discovered a letter from Evans to Daniel M. Fox dated October 7, 1887, that describes prices and discounts offered to ushers or guides at the Mint. A copy of that letter is reproduced on the following page. I will note some of the observations I think are significant.

1. Sales of the books were made through six guides at the Mint who made a profit from each sale.
2. Evans mentions "During the five years previous to your administration, my former competitor, A.M. Smith, had the field all to himself." The Smith publication was *Coins and Coinage, the United States Mint, Philadelphia*.
3. Evans reported that he "commenced gathering material for my book

Philadelphia, October 27th, 1887.

Hon. Daniel M. Fox,  
Superintendent U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia,  
Dear Sir:-

I learned this afternoon that some one or more of the guides had complained to you about my raising the price of my Mint Book. This I assure you has not been done; neither do I contemplate making any change in the prices at present.

On or about the 23rd. ult., I handed to each one of the six guides a notice of which the following is a copy:

"On and after October 1st., 1887, the premium copies will be reduced from eight to four copies with each one hundred books delivered. In justice to myself and parties with whom I have business relations, I am compelled to adopt this as a rule until further notice."

The ushers or guides at the Mint have always had a discount of 50% off on the retail price of my book since its publication, which is an unusually large one on copy-right books. The largest discount that I make to the book-trade is 40% off. The give-away copies called by the ushers "premiums" was started by Mr. A. M. Smith, my competitor, who first gave four copies extra with each one hundred books delivered. I gave the same. He increased these copies to eight with each one hundred books. I submitted, under protest, to that imposition, as the guides seemed

determined to sell the books, on which they could make the most money, with but little regard to the merits of the books sold.

During the five years previous to your administration, my former competitor, A. M. Smith, had the field all to himself, and furnished a small pamphlet in large quantities purporting to be a "History of the Philadelphia Mint", on which he made a profit over and above cost of four hundred per cent. This pamphlet was sold at the Mint to visitors at 40 cts. per copy, and supplied to the guides at 25 cts. per copy, the discount being 30% off retail prices, (or 12 cts. per copy margin or profit to the guides.) Without any trouble or investment on their part, the guides now are and have been making four times as much money as the publisher, and yet they are not satisfied.

When I commenced gathering material for my book in the Fall of 1884, I fully expected that I should not be required to give a discount to the guides of more than 40% off from retail prices, and should not have done so had it not been for the competition that I was compelled to submit to. When Mr. Smith learned that my book was in course of publication, he immediately reduced the retail price of his pamphlet from 40 to 25 cts., and lowered his price to the guides from 25 cts. to 12½ cts.

Soon after the publication of my book (the Fall of 1885) Mr. Smith issued another book uniform in size with mine, but not in number of pages, illustrations or merit. This book he first offered at 30% discount, and, not meeting with success in selling

to the guides, he offered them what I have always considered to be in the nature of a bribe, i. e., giving them eight extra copies with each one hundred delivered. In order to have my book sold at the Mint, I have been compelled to compete with an inferior book on humiliating terms.

Thanks to your kindness and correct judgment, I have been relieved of this unjust competition.

It is my purpose to improve the book from time to time. A second revision is now being made. New matter and new tables of monetary statistics of the last two fiscal years, besides one or more new steel plates will appear in my next edition.

Begging your kind indulgence for inflicting so long a letter on you, I will say that I was prompted to do so by two reasons. One is that an unjust complaint has been made to you in relation to the terms of my dealings with the guides; the other reason is that I desire that you may have some writing to refer to in case your attention is again called to this subject. In relation to the dissatisfaction among the guides of the Mint, it is but just to say that three of them have expressed themselves as being entirely satisfied with the new terms on which my books are to be furnished in future, namely, a discount of 50% off from retail prices with four extra copies to be donated with each one hundred books sold.

It has been more than thirty years since I became a

publisher and book-seller, and I assure you that giving extra copies to purchasers is entirely foreign to the book-trade, and that in all my past experience, I have never known a standard copy-right book to be sold on more liberal terms than I have made with the guides or ushers of the U. S. Mint.

Very respectfully,  
Your ob't. servant,  
*Geo. F. Evans*

in the fall of 1884” and later that the book was published in the Fall of 1885.

4. After complaining about the competition from Smith, he mentions, “Thanks to your kindness and correct judgement, I have been relieved of this unjust competition.” It was about this time that Smith moved to Minneapolis. Cause and effect are difficult to determine.

I found that after 42 years of study, I could still learn something new about A.M. Smith. In doing research for this article, I also learned much that I didn’t know about Evans. I hope that readers of *The Asylum* will also find something to learn in the article.



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# Book Review: *Coins Minted by the Knights in Malta* by John Gatt

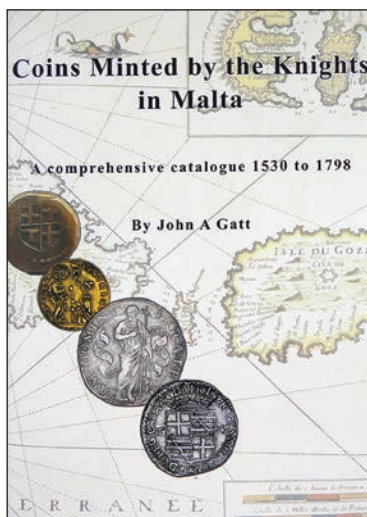
By William VanOrnum

Who are the Knights of Malta? One thing is for sure: this religious order of the Roman Catholic Church has evolved in different ways since the eleventh century, a time of Crusades between antagonists from different lands. The Order began with a Hospitaller orientation, and later changed into an organization that was both military and Hospitaller, protecting pilgrims and providing medical services to them on journeys.<sup>1</sup> The Order gained financial prosperity during the 16th through 18th centuries. After the Order was evicted from Malta in 1798, there was disorganization. From the 19th century to the 21st, the Order has distinguished itself through charitable works, and is recognized by the United Nations. Because of this, food, funds, and medical care can be delivered quickly anywhere in the world. There are 13,500

Knights worldwide and over 80,000 volunteers (Maltesers) who serve the global community through works of charity. (Disclosure: I have been a member of the Order since 2010. The full name of the Order is Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta.)

By dint of his own journeys around the world, John Gatt (himself a native of Malta) presents *Coins Minted by the Knights in Malta: A Comprehensive Catalogue 1530 to 1798* (Melbourne: Waratah Group, 2018). This was not a book written in one's home den with computers and book or forays to local libraries. Gatt, like a good Knight of yore, driven by passion and desire for truth, journeyed from his home in Australia, taking many different numismatic pilgrimages to where he could see, examine, and learn about these coins. He visited museums, archives, coin dealers, and numismatists with private collections. The ring of authenticity resonates from every page of this book; a labor of love and a desire to keep this knowledge alive for future generations.

His book is organized in the following manner. There is a section for each Grandmaster—28 that reigned in Malta, containing summaries of the life and times of each, and the coins minted during their reign. There is a listing of the dates when the coins were minted, the number seen in museums and private hands, the total number, and the average weight and size. Most of the coins are accompanied by full-color photo-





graphs. To help identify the coins, there is a listing of Obverses, Reverses, and Edge types, as well as of every die variety seen, as well as the total number in museums and in private hands. His work here also delineates average weight, average size, and the rotation if milled coinage that is minted by press.

The data base is thorough—over 16,600 different coins (in gold, silver, and copper), with 2,850 varieties listed, 1,380 varieties previously not listed, as well as nine totally new coins. Accompanying this is information on minting processes, die-making, coin rotation, patterns and trial pieces, minting errors, fiduciary coins, foreign counter-marked coins as well as counterfeit coins. His numbering system contains three parts. The first part—01 to 28—are the Grand Masters that ruled during the Order's stay in Malta. The second part is the denomination of 27 different type coins, many familiar, some esoteric: Piccolo, Grano, Tari, Scudo, Zecchino, as well as others. The third part of the classification system is the obverse number, edge type, and reverse number. Edge types are classified as No Edge Applied, Applied Edges, Edge Unknown, and Edge removed or worn out. Reverse dies are noted as well as these suffixes: counter stamped, die clash, double struck, and filled die. Here is an example: 06-6T-02X02: 06 (De Valette), 6T (6 Tari) -02 (Obverse number) X (no applied edge) 02 (Reverse number). A review in *Coins Weekly* has suggested further data to be included.<sup>2</sup> The photos are large and sharp and red arrows make it easy on the eyes when looking at small details of die varieties and states.

Let's take a look one of the Grandmasters. Here is Gatt's description of the life and times of Grand Master 10, Martin Garzes. He served as the 58th Grand Master, between 8 May, 1595 and 7 February, 1601:

Garzes's election as Grand Master was greatly welcomed by the King of Spain Philip II. So much that he decreed that an increase of grain was to be given to Malta which had suffered during the Verdalle [previous Grandmaster] reign. The King also gave a large amount of money to help with the fortification of Gozo.

Within a short period of time of becoming Grand Master, Garzes successfully stopped the conflicts and disorder between the various Langues<sup>3</sup> that had prevailed during the reign of the previous two Grand Masters. His impartiality also helped to improve the Order's international relationships.<sup>4</sup>

Here are photos of three different reverses presented by Gatt:





The arrows on these three coins also point to distinguishing characteristics of die varieties.

Collectors like the colors of copper coins. Witness the specialized studies of early American copper coins. These are in full glory spanning a period of 268 years. Those who collect Early American Cents might note differences in the hues on EAC coppers and those displayed in Gatt's book. Many different hues and colors emerge as copper changes over the years and centuries. I suspect there are numismatists when study the differences in coppers from different lands and epochs. The letter to *The Numismatist* from 1957, referring to early American coppers, perhaps applies to coins of Malta as well:

It is doubtful if anyone now living remembers the original color of large cents, which last fell from the coining presses in 1857. As they dropped into the basket, (to nick their older brothers) they were undoubtedly of a bright copper color and because of their recent molecular disturbance, they were hot. As they cooled, they took on various shades of color, the final result depending on atmospheric conditions as well as the pureness of the metal.<sup>5</sup>

There is an interesting description of minting processes. Gatt notes that the making of dies did not change greatly; they were made of iron and steel and the minting process evolved from hand-hammered dies to machine made coins. There are descriptions and photos of these two manufacturing processes. (Gatt, p. xiv) Every hand-hammered coin had a different rotation. Even when production of the milled coins were not standardized the rotation of many early milled coins differed every time the press was reset. In the description and photos of each coin type and die variety, Gatt indicates rotation with arrows representing each side of the coin.

Gatt's book can be a starting point for a numismatic quest to study the 900-year history of the Knights. In the Foreword, Emmanuel Magro Conti suggested past studies. In particular, publications by P.G.H Furse (1864), R. Morris (1884), and E.H. Furse (1885) kept enthusiasm for these coins going after the Order had been suppressed in the beginning of the 19th Century.

Studies from the 20th Century studies by Calleja Schembri (1908) and J.C. Sammut (1977) have offered another retrospective. Students of these coins might find the following auction catalogs to be of interest: Glendening and Company of London in



June 1944, May 1957, February, 1960, and November 1957; as well as Spinks, 1988 and NAC in April 2011.

The Malta Numismatic Society, founded in 2020, includes downloads of important works on its website, [mns.mt](https://mns.mt). These are available to non-members as well as members (who pay a reasonable fee of \$40 to join <https://www.mns.mt>). The book by Morris is online (Coins of the Grandmasters of the Order of Malta), written in English, offers a wealth of historical details. John Gatt provides a short and nicely written account of the symbolism of Maltese crosses on the coin. There is also a recent journal article (Tesserae, no other details provided), "From Rhodes to Malta: The Gold Coins of Grandmaster Phillipe Villiers de Lisle Adan, 1521-24. Books by the Furses, written in French, offer material to those conversant in this language. As a member of the Malta Numismatic Society, John Gatt has helped to develop resources on his website that will amplify the material in his book as well as to encourage research that covers new ground. There is a line catalog where each coin can be viewed full-screen. He has found 178 new varieties as well as two new types of coins. This information is available to owners of the book upon registration on the website, [coinsofmalta.com](https://coinsofmalta.com).

The Order of Malta international website ([orderofmalta.net/coins/2008](https://orderofmalta.net/coins/2008)) offers photos and descriptions of coinage. These appear to be non-circulating coins including proof coins. The information on the Order's global work in government, humanitarian and medical works, diplomatic activities, press publications, and history may also be found here.

With Gatt's book in front of me, I'm appreciative of his passion, accuracy, and enthusiasm for his specialty. I'll be studying the rich symbolism and heraldry to understand the message intended by each coin. You know you have a good book when you want to keep taking it off the shelf in order to understand complexities. With this book, John Gatt has initiated new scholarship and deserves even more praise for going beyond his book with a website as well as his leadership in the birth of the Malta Numismatic Society. I hope others will be drawn in to share his enthusiasm.

Notes:

1. [orderofmalta.int/history](https://orderofmalta.int/history)
2. Kampmann, Ursula. "The Coins of the Order of Malta." *Coins Weekly*, September 5, 2018.
3. Langues=languages
4. Gatt, p. 101
5. Letter to the editor, *The Numismatist*, June, 1956. Cited by Warren A. Lapp and Herbert B. Silberman (Eds.), *United States Large Coins*, Lawrence, MA: Quarterman Publications, Inc., 1975, p. 124.

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# A Selected Bibliography of Published Numismatic Works by Richard Margolis

By David F. Fanning

Richard Margolis (1931–2018) was well-known to many as a dealer in world coins and one of the founders of the New York International Numismatic Convention (NYINC). He became interested in numismatics in his youth and was collecting seriously by the early 1950s. In 1958, he issued his first fixed price list of coins for sale, and over the following decades would publish dozens more. A long-time officer in the International Association of Professional Numismatists, Margolis received the rare honor of being named an Honorary Member of that organization. His numismatic research, however, is generally underappreciated. While his 2015 book, *Benjamin Franklin in Terra Cotta*, received many accolades and enthusiastic reviews, the articles he published in a wide variety of periodicals have received less attention than they deserve. The following bibliography, while making no claim of completeness, is offered as a first attempt to compile a corpus of Margolis's writings. It is arranged chronologically.



Richard Margolis

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